But why should he not interfere, it may be said, to prevent the evil ? The answer is, that, according to the principles which we have hecn developing, every such interference would be an evil, so far, at least, as it proceeded from weakness. For the intelligent creatures gather their experience from a state of things in which all events proceed by general laws; and so far as these laws were interfered with or suspended, they would find their experience avail them nothing, or positively misleading them; and confusion would spread itself, not merely in the physical universe, but among all its now amazed and awe-struck population. The world, in short, would reach the state in which we have seen a powerful machine—a steam-engine, for instance—with part of it broken, or out of joint, moving on more rapidly than ever, but now with an all-destructive energy. The only resource of the governor of the engine, in the case supposed, is to stop it as soon as possible ; and we believe that a finite creature governing this world would soon feel himself in a similar condition, and find it to be his wisest and mont benevolent course to abolish, as speedily an possible, the world which he was so misgoverning.

We live, It; is manifest, in the midst of a system, every one part of which is adapted with the greatest nicety to every other. We see before us what we reckon a useless plant; and we conclude that the species might be eradicated, and no evil follow. But the conclusion is rush. For the seed of that plant may be needful to the support of some kind of bird, or the root of it to some insect; that bird or insect may nerve an important purpose in the economy of the earth ; and were we completely to root out that plant bearing seed after its kind, we might throw the whole of nature into inextricable con (union.

How difficult (humanly speaking) to make every one arrangement of a universe HO complicated, and yet BO connected, to har-

monize with every other! It is reckoned a proof of the highest genius in a general to bo able to make skilful combinations. The mere discipline of ouch particular regiment, however orderly, and the courage of the troops, however great, will not avail, unless the commander can marshal and dispose the forces under his control. The very size of an army under an unskilful leader (like Xerxes) may only be the means of rendering it more unwieldy, and securing its speedier defeat. The general is showing his highest qualities when he can bring all his troops into action